



Southeast News

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CONVOCATION EXPLORES LIFE OF THE SPIRIT



DR. REUBEN SHEARES

Meeting in the familiar surroundings of Camp Sumatanga, Gallant, Ala., the 1977 Ministers Convocation was held Monday through Wednesday, May 2-4 with some 36 people in attendance. An annual event for the Southeast Conference, the Minister's Convocation provides a setting for both pastors and their spouses to engage not only in continuing education seminars, but to enjoy a time of relaxation and fellowship as well.

The theme of this year's Convocation was "The Life of the Spirit in the Life of the Church," under the very capable leadership of the Rev. Dr. Reuben Sheares and Rev. Cally Rogers. Dr. Sheares, a former minister in the Southeast Conference, is presently serving as Executive Director of the Office of Church Life and Leadership of the United Church of

Rev. Annie Campbell to Receive Antoinette Brown Award

The Rev. Annie Campbell, former Minister of Christian Education for the Southeast Conference, will join Davida Foy Crabtree as a recipient of the Antoinette Brown Award to be presented at the Eleventh General Synod. The presentation is scheduled for July 4th in Washington, D.C. The Rev. Joseph Evans, President of the United Church of Christ will present the award.

The Antoinette Brown Award was initiated in 1975 to honor outstanding women in ministry and to commemorate Antoinette Brown's outstanding life, spirit and ministry. She was the first woman ordained in the U.S.A., and the United Church of Christ can be especially proud of the fact that she was ordained by the Congregational Church in South Butler, New York in 1853. She was active in the anti-slavery movement and throughout her life was in the forefront of the women's rights movement. She lived to be 97 years old, was the mother of six children, the author of ten books. She began her last pastorate at age 75.

Annie Campbell's ministry and spirit stand as norms for those who seek examples of outstanding efforts among the professional clergy who serve rural communities. Born in Winter Park, Florida, she joined the Winter Park First Congregational Church at an early age. She graduated from Winter Park High School, obtained the BA Degree from Rollins College and the Master of Arts



REV. ANNIE CAMPBELL

Degree in Religious Education from Hartford Seminary's School of Religious Education. About 1934, while serving as a Church Extension Worker in Georgia she was licensed to preach. Rev. Campbell was ordained in the Southeast Conference in 1942 at Wadley, Alabama.

She served the Church for almost 40 years in the rural South between 1930 and 1971. Her assignments varied considerably. Besides serving as the minister of Christian Education for the Southeast Conference, she worked at Church Extension, was a supply preacher, taught Church School, served as an interim pastor, conducted Vacation Bible Schools, worked with migrants, opened a "drop-in" spot for farm product truck drivers, opened a Day Nursery for migrant children, taught at Thorsby Institute, served as pastor of several rural churches, and spent a year studying at Chicago Seminary and a year in Europe with the Congregational Christian Service Committee.

These experiences carried Rev. Campbell to states throughout the Southeast Conference, to small towns and large cities in Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Congratulations Rev. Annie Campbell from all those people in the Southeast Conference whom you inspired by your tireless and dedicated leadership!

Atlanta Site of Conference Annual Meeting

The 1977 Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference will be held on Friday through Sunday, June 10-12 in Atlanta, Ga. Once again, the Conference will be "in transit" between Central and First Congregational Churches, U.C.C. both of which will host the Conference. A special highlight of this year's Conference will be a tour of historical landmarks and churches in Atlanta.

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BHM Allocates Funds for Energy Conservation

The Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ announced today that it will appropriate one million dollars to provide low interest loans to its local congregations for energy conservation renovations in churches, educational buildings and parsonages.

At the same time, the Rev. Dr. Howard E. Spragg, executive vice-president of the Board called upon President Jimmy Carter to provide aid to non-profit organizations which do not have money available for energy conservation renovation.

"We prayerfully urge you to provide low interest governmental loans to non-profit organizations such as schools, hospitals, prisons, libraries, orphanages and homes for the aged, which would embrace your energy conservation program wholeheartedly but will not have the financial capacity to pay for necessary remodeling," Dr. Spragg said in a telegram to the President.

He also pledged to the President that "without questioning the details of how much energy might be available in the future and how much it should cost, we affirm your lead to conserve the energy we have now."



Dr. and Mrs. Homer McEwen, one of many couples at the Minister's Convention

Short Course in Human Relations

The 6 most important words:

"I admit I made a mistake."

The 5 most important words: "You did a good job."

The 4 most important words: "What is your opinion?"

The 3 most important words: "If you please."

The 2 most important words: "Thank you."

The 1 most important word: "We."

The least important word: "I."

Robert V. Moss Memorial Fund Established

The Robert V. Moss Memorial Fund has been established by the Executive Committee of the United Church of Christ. The offering, to be held at General Synod's worship service on July 3, 1977, will go into the fund to honor the late UCC president. Receipts will be used to develop ecumenical leadership in the U.S. and throughout the world. Criteria for making grants will include expected benefits to local church ministries and leadership development for women and minorities. The Executive Council also voted to establish a general UCC memorial fund to honor other UCC leaders.

CORRECTION NOTED

Our apologies to the East Alabama Women's Fellowship. The place of their spring rally, held on March 20, 1977 was inadvertently reported as Hillside Church in LaGrange. Please note that the meeting was held at Lowell Congregational Church in Roanoke, Alabama. Not only did we have the wrong church, but we had the wrong state as well!

Convocation ...

(Cont. from Page 1)

Christ. Rev. Rogers serves the southern region of the country for that instrumentality.

In four fascinating sessions, Dr. Sheares explored the biblical foundations of the Christian understanding of the Holy Spirit as it is encountered in personal experience and in the Church. Current enthusiasm for spiritual encounter, expressed through movements like the "charismatic movement," was also discussed. In-depth discussion was shared in three groups led by Rev. Homer McEwen, Rev. Cally Rogers and Rev. and Mrs. Harold Auler.

Throughout the Convocation hymns new and old were sung under the direction of Katherine Bell. Ed Brown brought the group up to date on world hunger needs and Rev. Woody Clark kept people on their toes as recreation director.

Ministers were introduced to the new professional profile forms that they have been requested to update and complete. And a special treat at this year's Convocation was a performance by the "handbell orchestra." The handbells and direction were provided by Rev. Harold Auler.

Last, but not least, a special session of Ole Thermometer U. conferred their dubious degrees on special guest Reuben

Looking for a Youth Camp

Are you looking for a church related youth camp for your children for this summer? Why not try Camp Ozone, near Crossville, Tennessee. Camp Ozone is operated by the United Presbyterian Church and is also sponsored by the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Located on a beautiful lake in the mountains of Tennessee, Camp Ozone offers excellent facilities and programming for ages 5 through 18, all under competent leadership of Camp Director Ted Witt.

For further information and brochures, write to Rev. Ted Witt, Camp Ozone, Ozone, Tenn. 37842.

Eleventh General Synod Soon to Be Underway

The Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ will be held Friday through Tuesday, July 1-5 at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. Southeast Conference delegates to the General Synod are Rev. Harold Auler, Mrs. Marion Young and Mr. Franklin W. Thomas. Associate Conference Minister, Warren Blankenhorn and Conference Minister, William Andes will also be attending.

Sheares — Doctor of Pediatric Spirituality, Rev. Harold Auler — Doctor of Ding Dong, and Rev. Floyd Carmack — Doctor of Sartorial Ponderosity. Rev. Carmack also served as Convocation Chairman.

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Needed at Lucy Perry Noble Institute

From time to time, people ask about things that are useful at Lucy Perry Noble Institute. Things we could use:

Cloth, used clothes, either wearable, or for use in rag rugs.

Neckties, all sorts, cut into two pieces, to be sendable as scraps.

If scraps are rolled in toilet paper this paper is sold here and helps to pay the duty which may be charged, or is used for the school.

Christmas scenes, which can be used for copying on embroidery. Santa Claus not very useful.

Used paper, old stockings, or panty hose. Packet of Rit dye remover helpful. Send as torn cloth, no value.

Send these things labeled: USED CLOTH SCRAPS: NO VALUE. Smaller boxes (2 or 3 lbs. each) travel faster and better than big ones. Check with P.O. for most inexpensive method of mailing, weight limits on packages, etc. Send to Lucy Perry Noble Institute, Madurai 625007, INDIA.

Uplands Board of Directors Meets

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of Uplands, Inc. was held from March 25th to 26th with twenty members in attendance. Reports and discussions can be summarized as follows:

1. The day-to-day operation, financially, is fairly stable at this time, but dollars are lacking to generate any real long-term planning and development.

2. There are a number of immediate needs that need to be resolved, one being the road situation in some areas.

3. A program for long-term development is important, including among other things, the renovation of Heritage Hall as a primary center for activities, and the enlistment of churches and individuals in the support conferences to spark development.

New persons on the Board of Directors include: Dr. Robert M. Metcalfe of Nashville; Mrs. Shirley E. Tucker of Crossville; and the Rev. Philip E. Ward of Chicopee, Mass. Mrs. Bette Evans is the new chairman.

The negotiations on the new apartment bids are still in process, although everything looks favorable and construction should soon be underway.



Strip mine scars the landscape near
Hazard, Kentucky
Photo by Helen Winternitz

A STIRRING IN THE MOUNTAINS

There's a stirring in the mountains of Appalachia. Appalachia, America's forgotten land, rich in natural resources — coal and timber, but poor in the things that Americans in other parts of the country have come to expect as their birthright. For too long, the proud and independent people of Appalachia have endured the problems of low income, boom-and-bust employment cycles, political corruption, poor education, inadequate health care facilities, and a landscape devastated by the greed of the nation for the precious black gold of the hills.

But times are changing. The stirring in the mountains is the sound of Appalachian people working together to regain control of their land and of their lives. And through the participation of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries in CORA, the Commission on Religion in Appalachia, you are helping. Some of the projects sponsored by CORA's Appalachian Development Projects Committee:

- Mine safety and health, an educational program for miners and residents of mining communities.
- Western Economic Development Organization Crafts Training Project, working with craft-shop managers in 20 western N.C. counties.
- Scott County Tenn. Transportation

Southeast Conference Filmstrip Being Prepared

Did you ever wonder about the origin of the Southeast Conference and the member churches that compose it? Well, so have a good number of other people. In response, the Southeast Conference is in the midst of preparing a filmstrip and record about the ministry of the UCC and the history of the Conference, scheduled for completion in October, 1977.

Copies will be made available for purchase by individuals and churches in the Conference. Responsible for this effort is a committee composed of a cross-section of Conference lay persons and ministers chaired by Rev. Hank Tuttle. Technical direction is being provided by Rev. Earl Miller of the Stewardship Council of the United Church of Christ.

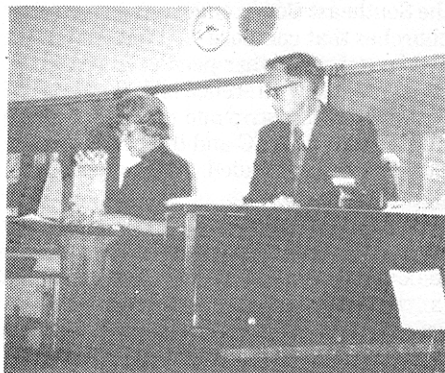
Rev. Carmack Serves as Consultant

Rev. Floyd Carmack, pastor of Bonanza United Church of Christ in Jonesboro, Ga., was asked by Brookmeade Congregational Church in Nashville to serve as a special consultant on church growth. On May 28 Rev. Carmack conducted a workshop for Brookmeade members exploring different methods for promoting church growth. Rev. Carmack is uniquely qualified for leadership in this area, having guided Bonanza UCC from a new church start to a congregation of over 300 members — all within a period of ten years! Such a co-operative effort is indicative of the many ways in which we can share leadership and resources from within our own Conference.

Co-Op, offering transportation for low income families to meetings, medical facilities, etc.

CORA's ultimate goal is: In the name of Jesus Christ, to engage the resources of the denominations and of other agencies to meet the pressing human needs of the people of Appalachia. The Appalachian Development Projects Committee is made up of members of grassroots organizations, plus representatives of the 18 denominations and 10 church councils which make up CORA. In response to the gospel — and through your giving to OCWM — you participate.

*The people in the U.S. use annually 3 million tons of fertilizer on lawns, golf courses and cemeteries — enough to produce food to keep several million people alive.



Dr. and Mrs. F.W. Munson
share OCWM concerns.

Munsons Are in Ghana

Helen and Fred Munson, of Pleasant Hill, TN are working in Ghana. Helen writes: "The Braun house, where we are staying, is built on stilts, less vulnerable to snakes and open to ocean breezes. The rainy season is beginning so there are colorful flowers and birds sipping nectar that we must learn to identify. Everything is much more expensive than at home, but the pineapple and bananas are delicious. Fred has spent many hours at the hospital" (an 118-bed hospital and 30,000 outpatients a year). Helen accompanied Trudy (Braun) on her clinics in "inaccessible bush villages" and said she would be afraid to go alone! They have been welcomed by several village chiefs. (A formal ritual) They are indeed welcome and of great service!

Alabama-NW Florida

Women's Fellowship

Dues Are Due

State and Conference dues to the Alabama-N.W. Florida Women's Fellowship are now due and payable. Thus far, dues have been received from only eight of the more than twenty participating fellowships. Presidents or treasurers of local fellowships are asked to check their records to see if they have forwarded any dues since June of 1976.

Member fellowships are reminded that dues are \$1 per active member and are to be sent to Mrs. Van Cleave, Treasurer, Box 73, Wadley, Al., 36276.

THE CIRCUS IS IN TOWN — ALWAYS IN TOWN

The owner of the circus sent his barker into town,
Into the highways and by-ways of the town,
crying to one and all, "Right this way,
step right this way. The circus is here —
and it's free.
Get your free tickets —
and tell your friends."

"Circus? Free circus?" asks the doubter.
"There is no circus!
You lie! You lie!
Run him out of town."

Replied the barker,
"The circus is in town. It's always in
town. It's all around."

"Where, you ask, is the circus?
Where's the free circus?"

Breathe the sweet air. Look at the big blue
top. Feel the sunshine on your shoulder.
Listen to the crocus choir, singing songs
of yellow and gold.

And the prizes! All prizes are free —
forgiveness, all you want;
acceptance, all you need;
joy-in-you, all you can use."

Turning to other passers-by, he barks,
"Right this way.
Free tickets to the circus.
The circus is in town.
The circus is always in town!"

Funny thing. Most of the passers-by
Pass on by.

By Rev. John Lackey,
Feb. 1976

Pleasant Grove Observes

Maundy Thursday

A dinner and communion service in observance of Maundy Thursday was held at Pleasant Grove Church, LaFayette, Alabama, on April 7, 1977. Attending were members of the host church and their pastor, Ralph Worley, visiting ministers, Rev. E.G. Clark and Rev. Terry Clark, and

Huntsville Doubles OGHS Offering

The United Church of Huntsville more than doubled its OGHS giving this year with a record offering of \$262.00. This achievement resulted from the leadership of the chair-person of the Board of Benevolence and Counsel, Ellen Bergman.

Groups and individuals in the church rose to the challenge offered by Mrs. Bergman. The Youth Group chose the most difficult project — a dinner which dramatized the way most people in the world eat. Three quarters of the guests were served meager fare: corn bread mush and one piece of stale bread. The rest were served handsomely on fine china. Ultimately, all ate well after the point was made. Profits were \$52.00.

The younger Sunday school children also raised about \$10.00. Contributions on OGHS Sunday and afterwards, with practically all church families participating, brought in the remaining \$200.00.

Promotion was the key to success, including posters all over the church, a movie entitled "Friends in Deed," and articles in the church newsletter and Sunday bulletins.

Mrs. Bergman continues to challenge United Church of Huntsville to look beyond itself with a monthly "Outreach Emphasis." In April the Outreach Emphasis was an Easter Offering for OCWM. In May the Outreach Emphasis will be Huntsville's Interfaith Mission Service. Other emphases have been planned for each month of 1977 and part of 1978.

several visitors from Corinth.

The meal was most unusual since the menu consisted of traditional Biblical foods, prepared, as nearly as possible, as they were in Biblical times. A selection of lamb, fish, and chicken accompanied by squash, lentils, beans, cucumbers, onions, olives, and home-baked breads, with honey and butter, comprised the main course. The second course consisted of apricot pies, dates, pistachio nuts, raisins, grapes, apples, and cheese. Milk and a delicious drink made from pomegranate and cranberry juice were served.

After the meal a service of worship was held in which Rev. Terry Clark of Corinth delivered the sermon. This was followed by the celebration of Holy Communion, taken from one cup and one loaf.